Market access to service sector in European countries

22. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not been able to get adequate market access to service sector in European countries;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government has not made concrete proposals in this regard;

(c) if so, in what way does Government propose to use the WTO negotiations to get entries for our software export sector in Europe and Japan; and

(d) the details of any strategy that has been evolved thus far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) India is pursuing liberal market access for all its services exports, including software exports, from Members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as a part of the Doha Round negotiations. In addition to the bilateral request-offer process, India is also engaging in the plurilateral process at the WTO negotiations, and is participating as a requesting member in the Computer Related Services (CRS) group as well as the Architecture, Engineering and Integrated Engineering Services (AEI) group. EC and Japan are also members of plurilateral group on CRS. All members of this group, including EC and Japan, are expected to respond to the requests of other members, by making improved offers to grant greater market access.

Expansion of promotional work of MPEDA

23. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many officers the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) have in the country and abroad;

(b) whether MPEDA has any proposal to expand its promotional network;

(c) what specific plans the MPEDA have to explore and win new markets for marine products from Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the details of such plans to boost marine exports from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) have 99 officers in the country and 2 officers abroad.

(b) to (d) MPEDA's promotional programmes cover the entire country. In order to increase the exports of marine products from the country, including Andhra Pradesh, Government is taking a number of steps which include the schemes for extending financial assistance for upgrading processing facilities, expansion of aquaculture, imparting of training to aquaculture farmers, assistance for production of value added products and marketing support. Further, MPEDA is participating in a number of international seafood fairs/exhibitions and exhibiting the products.

Investment by Norwegian firms in SEZs

24. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has invited specific Norwegian firms to invest in various SEZs in India;

(b) what are the details of this offer to firms from Norway;

(c) whether land has been promised to firms from Norway;

(d) what gains will accrue to the country from Norwegian firms;

(e) the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction from Norway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) do not arise.